

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the application identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.111 and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

At the outset, Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 3 and 30-32 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. See Official Action at page 5.

By the above amendments, claim 30-32 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and subject matter of such claims has been incorporated into claims 1, 2 and 6, respectively. Claim 12 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants note that the listing of claims submitted with the Amendment filed March 20, 2009, contains a typographical error in claim 9, wherein the term "NH₄NC₃" should read "NH₄NO₃", as set forth in the originally filed application. This typographical error has been corrected in the above listing of claims without underlining or strikethrough, since such revision is merely to make the language of such claim consistent with that of the originally filed application.

In the Official Action, claims 1, 4, 5 and 7-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0054141 (*Worley et al*). Claims 2 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Worley et al*. Claims 6 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Worley et al*.

Without addressing the propriety of the Examiner's comments in connection with the above rejections, it is noted that such rejections are moot in view of the above

amendments, in which independent claims 1, 2 and 6 have been amended to incorporate subject matter of claims 30-32, respectively. In this regard, claims 30-32 have not been included in the above §102(e) rejections, and have been indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter, as discussed above.

As such, for at least the above reasons, withdrawal of the above rejections is respectfully requested.

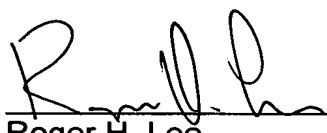
From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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